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HEARTS & MINDS

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STARGATE ATLANTIS™
HEARTS & MINDS

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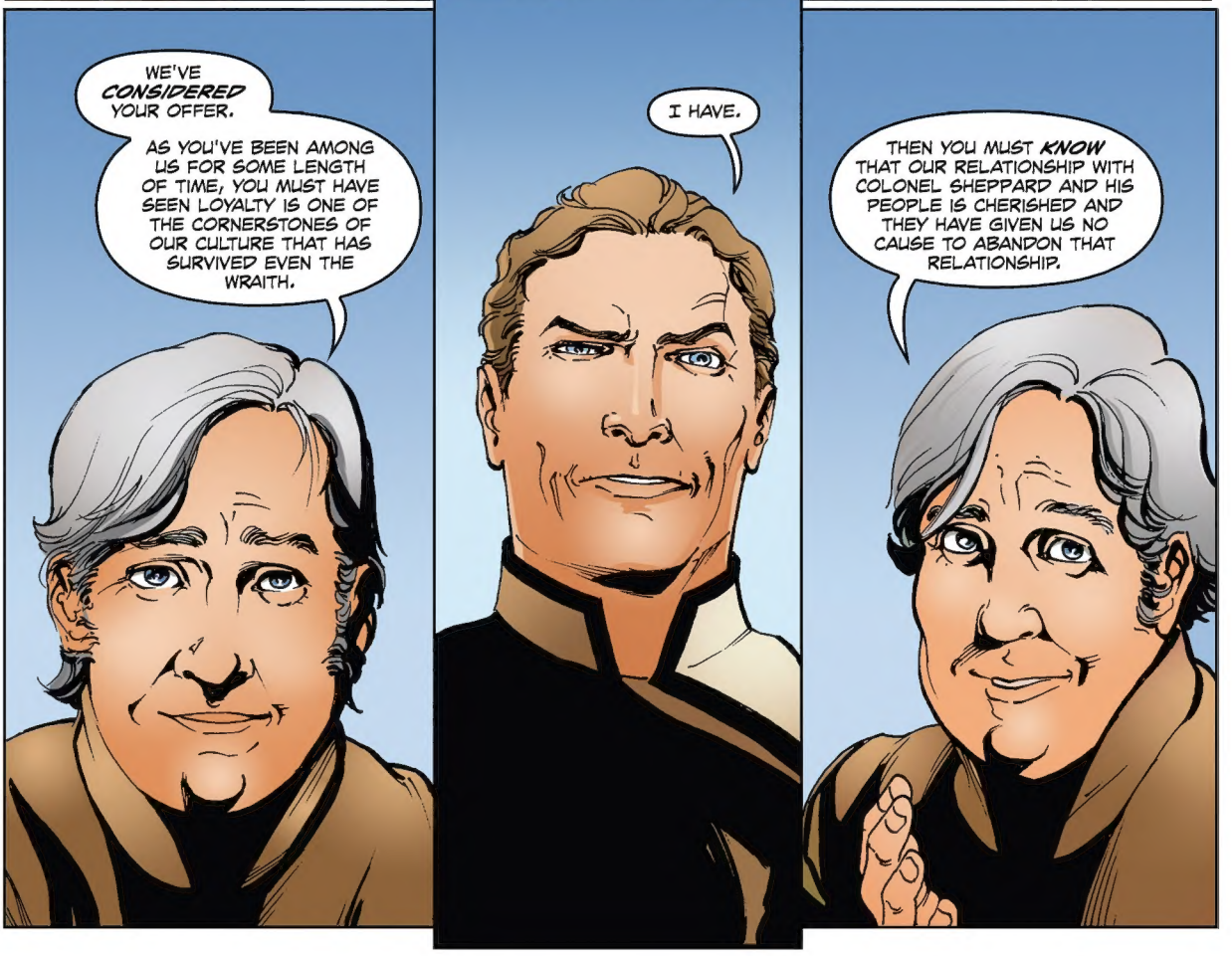
Metro Goldwyn Mayer
TRADE MARK
MGM

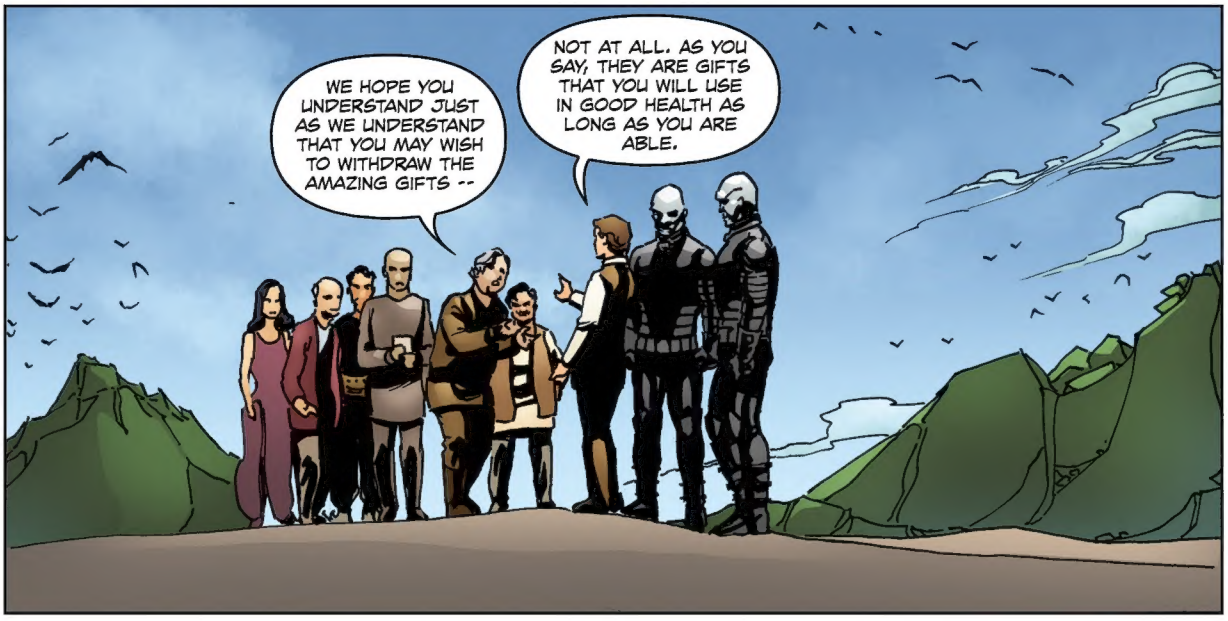
YOU MEAN THAT'S IT?
FOR NOW, YES.
IF JANUS IS TRYING TO INJURE COLONEL SHEPPARD, THIS SEEMS A RATHER INDIRECT WAY TO DO THAT.
PERHAPS HE TRULY IS DOING THIS TO HELP THE HUMANS OF THIS GALAXY...

I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT, BUT BASED ON SHEN'S DIAGNOSIS I THINK IT'S *SAFE* TO SAY JANUS *ISN'T* DOING THIS OUT OF THE GOODNESS OF HIS HEART.
WHO CARES WHY HE'S DOING IT. LET'S JUST TAKE HIM OUT.
THAT *MIGHT* HAVE BEEN AN OPTION *BEFORE* THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED,
BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO BE PART OF THIS GALAXY WE HAVE TO PLAY BY THEIR RULES.
THEN WE NEED TO GET *PROOF* OF WHAT HE'S DOING AND GET IT BACK HERE.
AND THAT'S *PRECISELY* WHAT I WANT YOU AND YOUR TEAM TO DO.
GO BACK TO EVERY PLANET, SETTLEMENT, AND ENCAMPMENT THAT ALL OF THE SUDDEN DOESN'T NEED OUR HELP AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND OUT.
ANCIENT OR NOT, HE'S GOING TO MAKE A *MISTAKE* AT SOME POINT. AND WHEN HE DOES, I WANT YOU *THERE*.
WE'RE ON IT.

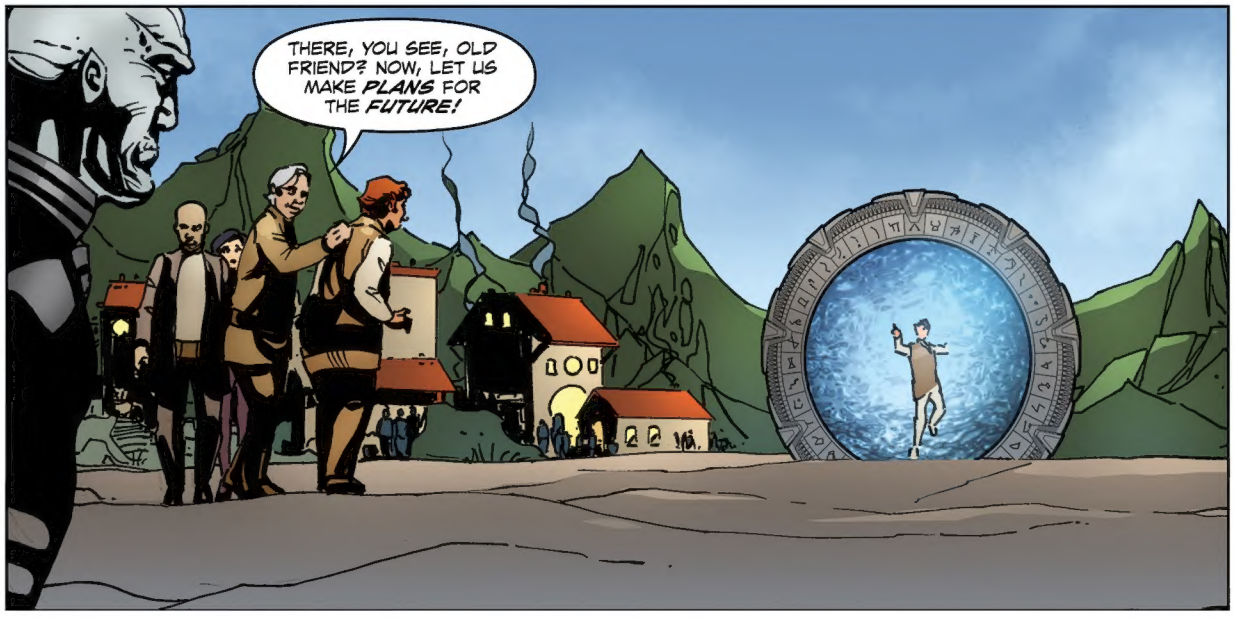
NAGASAMIR.
YOU ARE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE. THE WRAITH ARE FRAGMENTED BUT NOT ELIMINATED. IF THEY COME BACK --
THEY WON'T BE BACK ANY TIME SOON AND EVEN IF THEY DID, OUR FRIENDS ON ATLANTIS HAVE NEVER FAILED TO ASSIST WHEN WE NEEDED THEM.

GENTLEMEN, I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING.


WE'VE CONSIDERED YOUR OFFER.
AS YOU'VE BEEN AMONG US FOR SOME LENGTH OF TIME, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN LOYALTY IS ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF OUR CULTURE THAT HAS SURVIVED EVEN THE WRAITH.
I HAVE.
THEN YOU MUST KNOW THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONEL SHEPPARD AND HIS PEOPLE IS CHERISHED AND THEY HAVE GIVEN US NO CAUSE TO ABANDON THAT RELATIONSHIP.

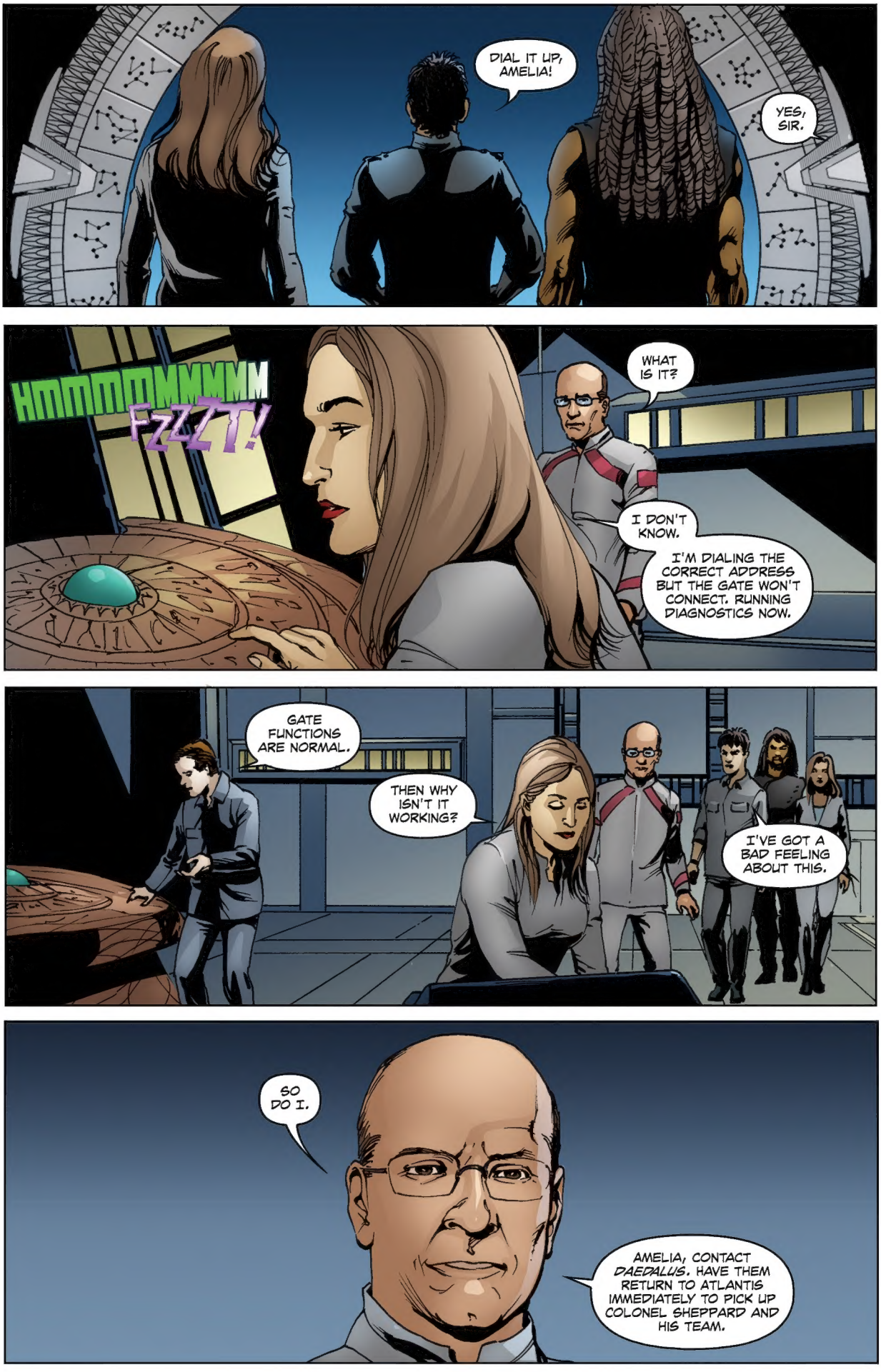

WE HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND JUST AS WE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MAY WISH TO WITHDRAW THE AMAZING GIFTS --
NOT AT ALL. AS YOU SAY, THEY ARE GIFTS THAT YOU WILL USE IN GOOD HEALTH AS LONG AS YOU ARE ABLE.

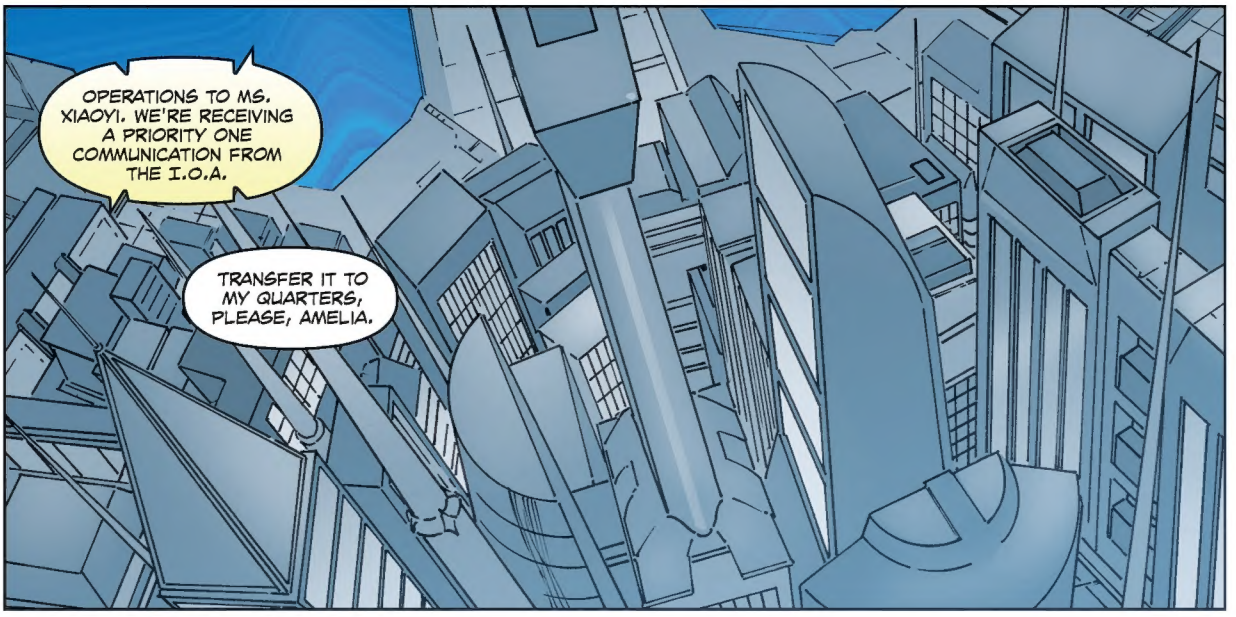
THANK YOU FOR YOUR *UNDERSTANDING.*
IF THAT IS YOUR *DECISION*, I MUST *RESPECT* IT AND BE ON MY WAY.
MY FRIENDS WILL STAY ON UNTIL THEY FINISH THEIR MAJOR PROJECTS AND THEN YOU WILL BE FREE TO TAKE IT FROM THERE.


THERE, YOU SEE, OLD FRIEND? NOW, LET US MAKE *PLANS* FOR THE *FUTURE!*

NAGASAMIR.
KRAKABADOOM!!

NOT ONLY IS IT GETTING CLOSER, IT'S GETTING CLOSER FASTER.

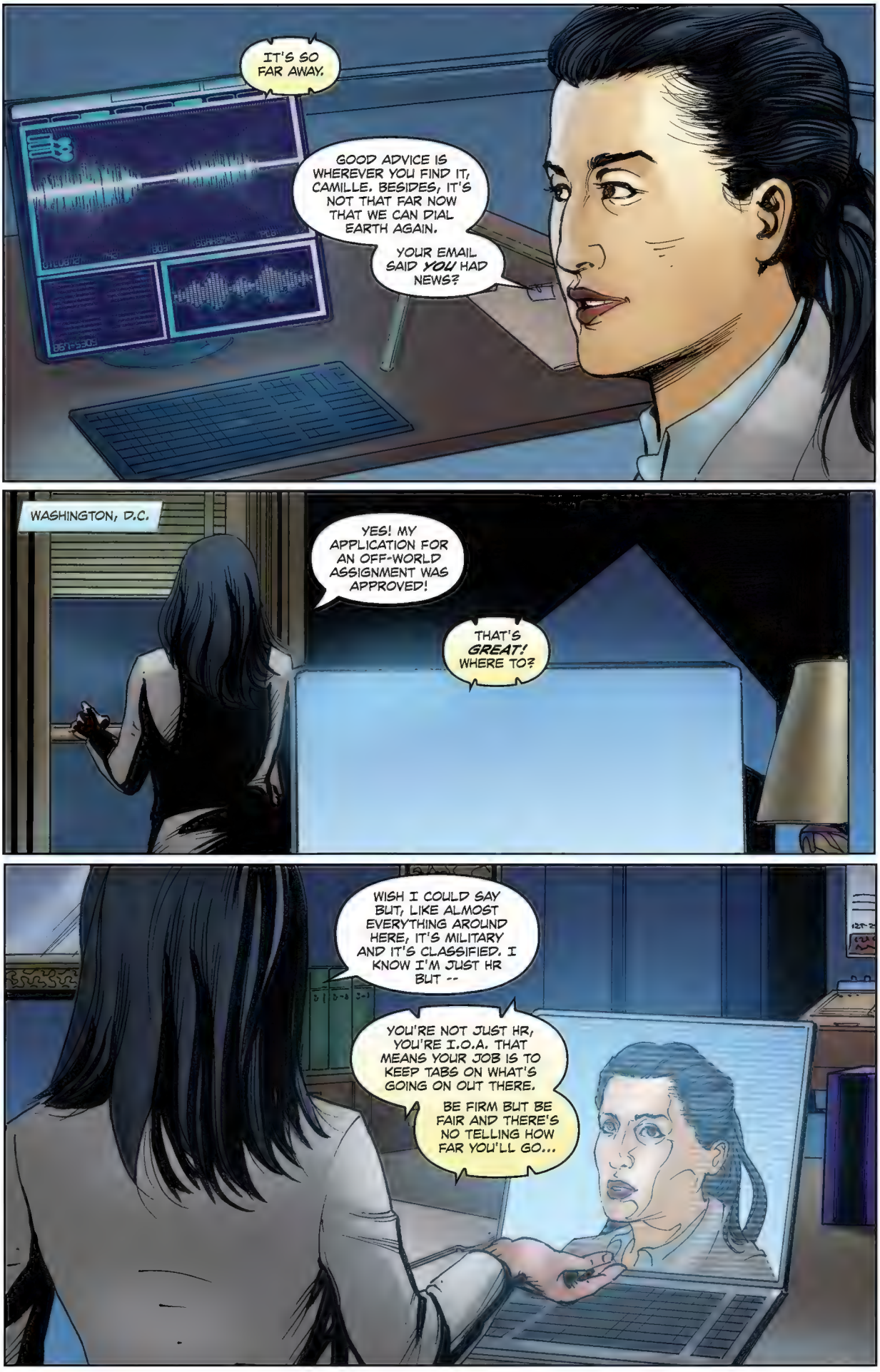

DIAL IT UP, AMELIA!
YES, SIR.
HMMMMMMMMM
FZZZT!
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW.
I'M DIALING THE CORRECT ADDRESS BUT THE GATE WON'T CONNECT. RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS NOW.
GATE FUNCTIONS ARE NORMAL.
THEN WHY ISN'T IT WORKING?
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
SO DO I.
AMELIA, CONTACT *DAEDALUS*. HAVE THEM RETURN TO ATLANTIS IMMEDIATELY TO PICK UP COLONEL SHEPPARD AND HIS TEAM.


OPERATIONS TO MS. XIAOYI. WE'RE RECEIVING A PRIORITY ONE COMMUNICATION FROM THE I.O.A.
TRANSFER IT TO MY QUARTERS, PLEASE, AMELIA.

SO YOU GOT MY MESSAGE?
I GOT IT. I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.

I THOUGHT I WAS CLEAR. THE ATLANTIS EXPEDITION HAS BEEN WITHOUT A STAFF PSYCHOLOGIST SINCE THE LOSS OF DR. HEIGHTMEYER.*
JOY
*DR. KATE HEIGHTMEYER WAS KILLED IN THE SEASON 4 EPISODE "DOPPELGANGER."

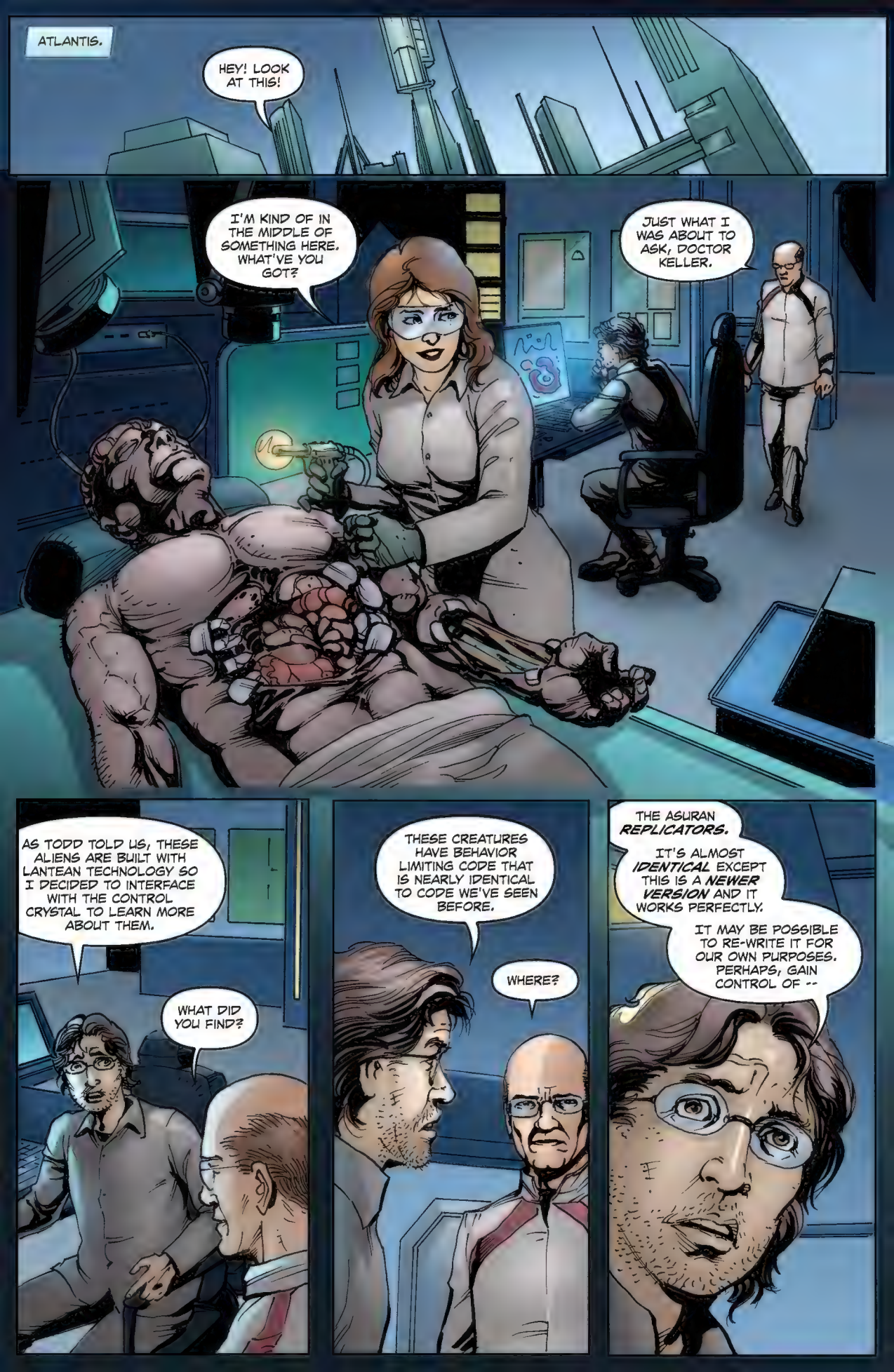
RICHARD MADE THE OFFER AND I ACCEPTED.
BUT YOU HAVEN'T PRACTICED IN YEARS AND IT'S --


IT'S SO FAR AWAY.
GOOD ADVICE IS WHEREVER YOU FIND IT, CAMILLE. BESIDES, IT'S NOT THAT FAR NOW THAT WE CAN DIAL EARTH AGAIN.
YOUR EMAIL SAID YOU HAD NEWS?
WASHINGTON, D.C.
YES! MY APPLICATION FOR AN OFF-WORLD ASSIGNMENT WAS APPROVED!
THAT'S GREAT! WHERE TO?
WISH I COULD SAY BUT, LIKE ALMOST EVERYTHING AROUND HERE, IT'S MILITARY AND IT'S CLASSIFIED. I KNOW I'M JUST HR BUT --
YOU'RE NOT JUST HR, YOU'RE I.O.A. THAT MEANS YOUR JOB IS TO KEEP TABS ON WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE.
BE FIRM BUT BE FAIR AND THERE'S NO TELLING HOW FAR YOU'LL GO...

EVASIVE ACTION, MAJOR MARKS! SHIELDS TO MAXIMUM!
SHIELDS UP, SIR! GOING TO MANUAL CONTROL!
SHIELDS DOWN TO 70% AND FALLING, COLONEL! THERE'S NO ROOM TO MANEUVER!
SSSKREEEEERUNCHH!
WE CAN'T TAKE ANOTHER HIT LIKE THAT, MAJOR. GET US OUT OF HERE!

DAMAGE REPORT!
LONG RANGE COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT, SIR, MAYBE PERMANENTLY. SOME OUTER HULL BREACHES FROM MICROMETEOROIDS, BUT NO CASUALTIES REPORTED.
DAMAGE CONTROL TEAMS ARE RESPONDING.
VERY WELL. CONFIRM OUR POSITION, MAJOR. NAGASAMIR'S SYSTEM DOESN'T HAVE AN ASTEROID BELT.
POSITION CONFIRMED, SIR.
THE ASTEROID BELT IS NAGASAMIR.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? JANUS?
ARE YOU KIDDING?
THEY SAY THEY'RE STICKING WITH US INSTEAD OF WITH HIM AND THE NEXT DAY THEIR PLANET BLOWS UP? IF YOU WANT --
RODNEY - SCAN THE DEBRIS, SEE IF YOU CAN FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN COINCIDENCES, COLONEL.
WE SHOULD NOT JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS, JOHN. PERHAPS WE COULD FIND OUT MORE FROM THE KROPHCHEK, CLOSE TRADING PARTNERS OF THE NAGASAMIRIANS.
MARKS, SET COURSE FOR KROPHCHEK AND GO TO MAXIMUM HYPER--
COLONEL, WAIT!
THE DAMAGE TO SUBSPACE HERE IS SO SEVERE THAT OPENING A HYPERSPACE WINDOW, IF IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE NOW, WOULD BE REALLY, REALLY BAD.
THE DAMAGE, IN FACT, IS SO EXTENSIVE, IT COULD'VE ONLY BEEN CAUSED BY THE UNCONTROLLED RELEASE OF ZERO-POINT ENERGY.
NOW, IT COULD'VE BE AN ACCIDENT WITH THEIR NEW REACTOR -
I WOULDN'T BET ON IT. BUT WE HAVE TO BE SURE BEFORE WE GO BACK TO THE COUNCIL.
MAJOR MARKS, MAXIMUM SUB-LIGHT UNTIL DOCTOR MCKAY SAYS WE CAN JUMP AND THEN TAKE US TO KROPHCHEK.


ATLANTIS.
HEY! LOOK AT THIS!
I'M KIND OF IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING HERE. WHAT'VE YOU GOT?
JUST WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO ASK, DOCTOR KELLER.
AS TODD TOLD US, THESE ALIENS ARE BUILT WITH LANTEAN TECHNOLOGY SO I DECIDED TO INTERFACE WITH THE CONTROL CRYSTAL TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.
WHAT DID YOU FIND?
THESE CREATURES HAVE BEHAVIOR LIMITING CODE THAT IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO CODE WE'VE SEEN BEFORE.
WHERE?
THE ASURAN REPLICATORS.
IT'S ALMOST IDENTICAL EXCEPT THIS IS A NEWER VERSION AND IT WORKS PERFECTLY.
IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO RE-WRITE IT FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES. PERHAPS, GAIN CONTROL OF --

BECAUSE THAT WORKED SO WELL THE LAST TIME.

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. EVERY TIME WE'VE TRIED SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN DISASTROUS.
YES, BUT THIS TIME --

I'M NOT SAYING YOU SHOULDN'T EXPLORE EVERY OPTION FOR OUR DEFENSE BUT BEYOND GIVING US A BLOODY NOSE, WHAT'S HE ACTUALLY DONE TO US?

HOW ABOUT NEARLY DESTROYING EARTH?

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WAS HIS INTENT. IF HE'D WANTED THAT, OR ANYTHING ELSE UP TO AND INCLUDING PERMANENT CONTROL OF ATLANTIS, HE'S HAD MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES.
WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?

I'M SUGGESTING HE NEEDED ATLANTIS BACK IN PEGASUS --
-- AND WE'VE OBLIGED HIM.

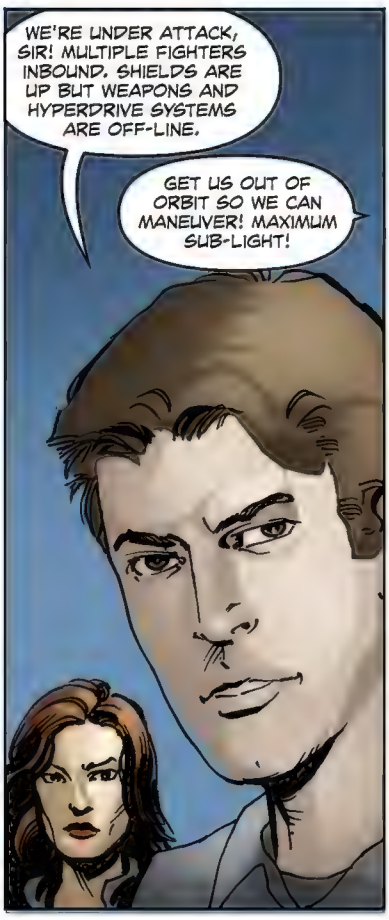
KROPHCHEK.
JUST ONCE, CAN WE GO TO A PLACE THAT'S AT LEAST APPROACHING A 20TH CENTURY CIVILIZATION?
FOR THE TECHNOLOGY?
NO, FOR THE FAST FOOD. I'D KILL FOR SOMETHING FRIED.
THE INNKEEPER TELLS ME THERE ARE A HANDFUL OF NAGASAMIRIANS HERE. THEY WERE ON A TRADE MISSION WHEN THEIR PLANET WAS DESTROYED.
WHERE ARE THEY? CAN WE TALK TO THEM?
YES. THEY'RE RIGHT OVER THERE. THE INNKEEPER IS PROVIDING SHELTER AND SUSTENANCE WHILE THEY GRIEVE.
THEY'RE GRIEVING AT A BAR?
CAN'T SAY I BLAME THEM FOR THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
BUT WE STILL HAVE A JOB TO DO. LET'S GO SEE WHAT THEY KNOW.

MOMENTS LATER...
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT? YOU SAID YOU LEFT RIGHT BEFORE JANUS DID.
I WITNESSED ENOUGH OF THE MEETING, COLONEL SHEPPARD, TO KNOW JANUS WAS MOST CERTAINLY DISPLEASED WITH THE ELDERS' DECISION.
I ALSO DID NOT NEED TO BE THERE TO KNOW IT WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT. THOSE BEINGS THAT WORK FOR JANUS WERE IN FULL CONTROL OF THE POWER FACILITY.
I HATE TO ASK AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT WOULD YOU ACCOMPANY US TO SHARE YOUR STORY WITH SOME PEOPLE WHO MAY BE ABLE TO HELP STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING TO ANYONE ELSE?
I WILL GO WITH YOU, COLONEL, BUT IT WILL BE QUITE SOME TIME, PERHAPS NEVER, BEFORE WE CAN AGAIN TRUST OR ACCEPT HELP FROM ANYONE.
JOHN? WHAT IS IT? NOW THAT WE HAVE PROOF --
THAT'S NOT PROOF. HOPEFULLY, THE COUNCIL WILL BE MOVED BY HIS STORY.
MEANWHILE, JANUS IS STILL OUT THERE SETTING HIMSELF UP TO HOLD THIS GALAXY HOSTAGE.

WHOA!
NO KIDDING!
ON THE UNNAMED WORLD WITH CHUCK AND WALTER...
THEY'RE STILL GETTING WORSE.
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE GOING TO GET BETTER.
CALL IT A HUNCH.

DID WE GET WHAT WE NEED, COLONEL?
NOT EXACTLY, SIR, BUT IF LONG-RANGE COMMS ARE BACK ONLINE, WE SHOULD CONTACT ATLANTIS AND --
BA-WHOOM!

MARKS, WHAT WAS *THAT*?!?


WE'RE UNDER ATTACK, SIR! MULTIPLE FIGHTERS INBOUND. SHIELDS ARE UP BUT WEAPONS AND HYPERDRIVE SYSTEMS ARE OFF-LINE.
GET US OUT OF ORBIT SO WE CAN MANEUVER! MAXIMUM SUB-LIGHT!

RECOMMEND WE SCRAMBLE 302S, SIR.
AGREED, COLONEL! GO!

NEW CONTACT DEAD AHEAD, SIR! I--
I'VE NEVER SEEN READINGS LIKE THIS.
ZZZAT!
ZZZAT!
ZZZAT!
ZZZAT!
SKKZZ!
SKKZZ!
MY GOD!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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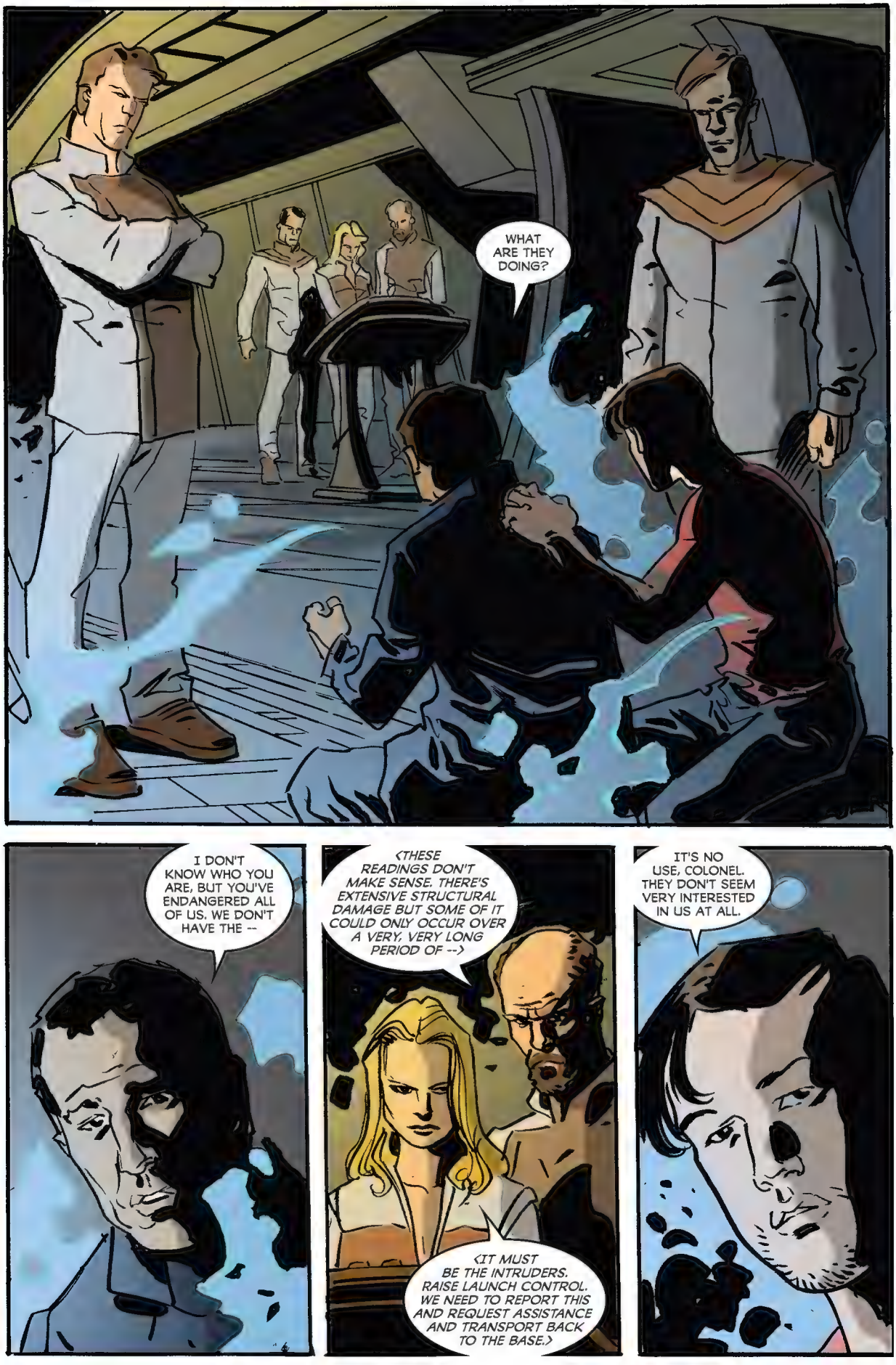
HUH...?
UNH!
KLUNK!
GOOD MORNING, COLONEL.
ELI? WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPENING?


WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT YOU'VE ENDANGERED ALL OF US. WE DON'T HAVE THE --
<THESE READINGS DON'T MAKE SENSE. THERE'S EXTENSIVE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE BUT SOME OF IT COULD ONLY OCCUR OVER A VERY, VERY LONG PERIOD OF -->

<IT MUST BE THE INTRUDERS. RAISE LAUNCH CONTROL. WE NEED TO REPORT THIS AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE AND TRANSPORT BACK TO THE BASE.>

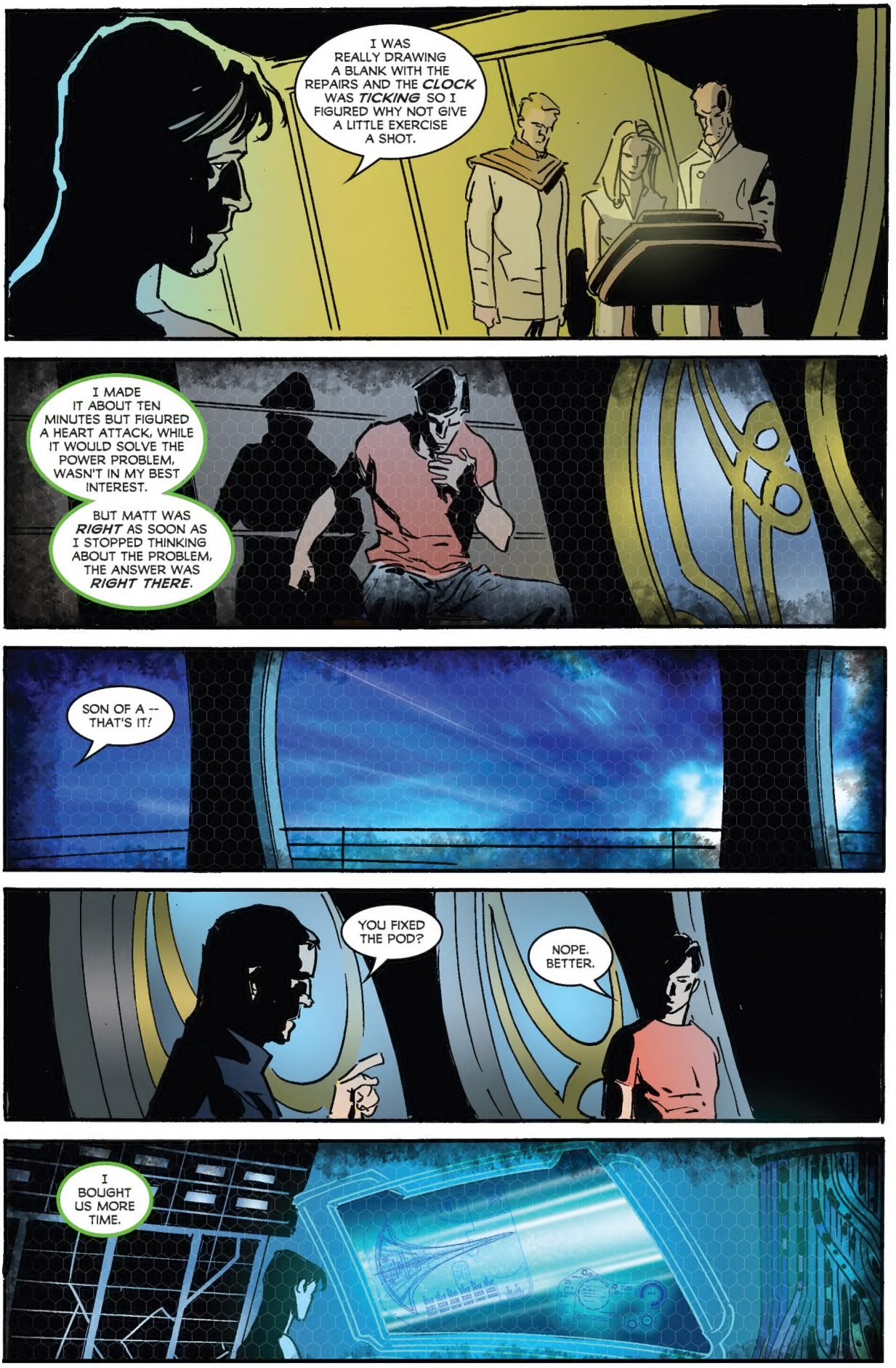
IT'S NO USE, COLONEL. THEY DON'T SEEM VERY INTERESTED IN US AT ALL.

HOW LONG WAS I OUT? WHAT'S GOING ON? AND *WHO* ARE THESE PEOPLE.
YOU'VE BEEN IN HIBERNATION FOR TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AND I'VE --.
WHAT?
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THREE YEARS!
YOU AND RUSH SAID *ANY* DEVIATION AND WE'D END UP DRIFTING FOR *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS -- AND THAT'S *IF* WE WERE LUCKY.

LIKE I WAS SAYING, I'D *FIXED* THE POWER PROBLEM, TEMPORARILY AT LEAST. I ALSO *RATIONED* THE FOOD --
-- AS YOU CAN SEE.
ELI, MAYBE YOU BETTER JUST START AT THE *BEGINNING*.
TWO AND A HALF MONTHS AGO...
AFTER I ACTIVATED YOUR POD, I *KNEW* MY NEXT JOB WAS TO *POWER DOWN* AS MANY SYSTEMS AS I COULD.
AFTER THAT, I HAD TO FIGURE OUT IF I COULD ACTUALLY GET THE POD WORKING AGAIN OR NOT.
BUT BEFORE I DOVE INTO THAT...

...I HAD TO GET USED TO HOW QUIET THIS SHIP REALLY IS.
AND I KNEW THE FIRST THING I TRIED WASN'T GONNA WORK.
AT OVER 1,700 PAGES, IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I FINALLY FOUND A TROUBLE-SHOOTING CHECKLIST. WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS R.T.F.M. RIGHT?
WRONG. THE MANUAL WAS NO HELP.
ONCE I GOT OUT OF THAT, I DECIDED TO IMPROVISE. I KNEW TIME WAS, UM, RUNNING OUT SO I FIGURED WHY NOT.
ALMOST THERE... GOT IT!
CLICK!
HMMMMMM...

HMMM-FZZZT-SSSH-BOOM!
LT. MATTHEW SCOTT
IF YOU LIKE GINN, ELI, YOU SHOULD JUST TELL HER. WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU HAVE?
IT'S JUST WHENEVER I'M AROUND HER, AND YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT POSSIBLE, I ACTUALLY GET MORE AWKWARD.
YOU JUST GOTTA GET OUT OF YOUR HEAD. WHEN I CAN'T FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, I HIT THE GYM OR GO RUN. THE ANSWER TO MY PROBLEM USUALLY JUST POPS IN THERE DURING OR SOON AFTER.
NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS.


I WAS REALLY DRAWING A BLANK WITH THE REPAIRS AND THE CLOCK WAS TICKING SO I FIGURED WHY NOT GIVE A LITTLE EXERCISE A SHOT.
I MADE IT ABOUT TEN MINUTES BUT FIGURED A HEART ATTACK, WHILE IT WOULD SOLVE THE POWER PROBLEM, WASN'T IN MY BEST INTEREST.
BUT MATT WAS RIGHT AS SOON AS I STOPPED THINKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM, THE ANSWER WAS RIGHT THERE.
SON OF A -- THAT'S IT!
YOU FIXED THE POD?
NOPE. BETTER.
I BOUGHT US MORE TIME.

TO BE CONTINUED IN STARGATE: UNIVERSE #1, ON SALE NOW!

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